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SOURCE Borba, No 175.

YUGOSLAVIA GETS FIRST PLASTICS FACTORY

By chemical processes, the factory manufactures polyvinyl plastics from coal, lime, and salt. The process of producing polyvinyl is improved, but not yet fully developed. Yugoslavia is first of the people's republics to set up such a factory. Polyvinyl chloride can replace rubber, leather, and wood (when manufacturing of wooden articles is expensive), and finds wide application in the chemical industry because of its extraordinary resistance to acids, alkalies, and other chemicals. Lately, it has replaced fine steel in some cases.

Polyvinyl is made of vinyl chloride gas, which in turn is made of hydrogen chloride and acetylene. Salt-carrying ships dock at the harbor of the "Jugovinil" factory. The first building of the combine, equipped with large cranes, is the salt-cleaning building. Here salt is dissolved in water and certain components are separated from the salt. Pipes carry the melted salt to another building, a spacious hall for electrolysis. Here, hydrogen chloride is separated by various chemical processes and is carried to a special reservoir, where caustic soda is produced as a by-product.

While hydrochloric acid and caustic soda are obtained here, acetylene is produced elsewhere in the combine by chemical processes. Acetylene is generally produced from carbide and it is carried to a special reservoir. By combining acetylene with hydrogen chloride, vinyl chloride is produced, but it is still in the form of gas. When the temperature is lowered, the gas changes into liquid, which is in turn processed into a power polyvinyl. Polyvinyl is carried by special bags to a section where hard, mixed, and soft products are made.

Some of the polyvinyl produced will be used for making shoe soles. Besides the production of other articles, which is in some cases greater than the production of soles, 6 million pairs of soles will be made yearly of polyvinyl.

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A water system has been built from the Jadro River. A modern thermoelectric power plant, which will supply current insofar as it is unavailable over high-tension wires, has also been built. The factory will not suspend working once it is activated. At present, machines are being installed. The "Jugovinil" is one of the most modern factories of its type in the world and the capacity of its production is such that Yugoslavia, when the factory begins working, will rank fifth in world production of polyvinyl.

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